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REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

New claims 26-28 are added.

Newly added claim 26 depends from independent claim 1 and recites that the electrochemical test strip of claim 1 is present in an automated meter. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 10, line 24-page 11, line 3.

Newly added claim 27 depends from claim 16 and recites that the method of claim 16 comprises employing an automated instrument. Support for this amendment can be found on page 10, line 24-page 11, line 3.

Newly added claim 28 recites a system comprising an electrochemical test strip and an automated meter. Support for this amendment can be found on page 10, line 24-page 11, line 3 and page 4, line 15-page 9, line 16.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments and their entry by the examiner is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number LIFE-004.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

-- 26. (New) The electrochemical test strip according to claim 1, wherein said strip is present in an automated instrument.

27. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein said method comprises employing an automated instrument.

28. (New) A system for use in determining the concentration of an analyte in a physiological sample, said system comprising:

(a) an electrochemical test strip comprising

(1) a reaction zone defined by opposing working and reference electrodes separated by a spacer layer, wherein at least one of said first and second metallic electrodes has a surface modified with a homogenous surface modification layer made up of self assembling molecules having a first sulfhydryl end group and a second sulfonate end group, wherein said sulfhydryl and sulfonate end groups are separated by a lower alkyl linker group; and

(2) a redox reagent system present in said reaction zone, wherein said redox reagent system comprises an enzyme and a mediator; and

(b) an automated instrument.--